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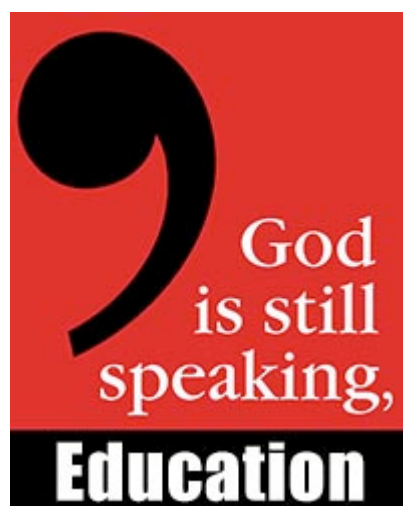
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What are you using for your Fall Christian Education Curricula?

The new school year is upon us and United Church Resources would like to remind congregations that now is the time to order new materials. We'd like to know what materials you use for your Christian Education program. What materials do you find most faith-filled, helpful, and user friendly? What are you planning on using this Fall?

United Church Resources have recommended two resources this year. You can click on the picture of the curriculum for ordering information.



Do you have experience with these curricula? What do you think? Tell us in the comments!

Gather Round

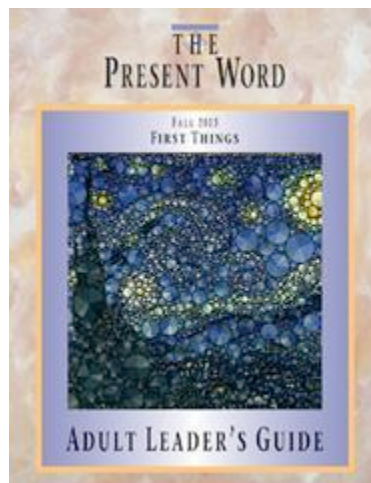




Quarterly, Bible-based curriculum for children and youth. Strengthens church-home connection. Versatile and easy to use.

Here's what Brian McLaren thinks: "We've prayed for a curricula like *Gather 'Round*. It's a creative leader in this needed approach. It lays a foundation in childhood that still serves as students come of age. I'm so glad to have finally discovered them."

The Present Word



The best-selling adult Bible study resource at United Church Resources! Students are encouraged to connect faith and life through Scripture, discussion and worship.

Endorsed by *The Christian Century*: “The value of church Bible studies based in concrete information shouldn’t be overlooked. *The Present Word* offers the fruits of biblical scholarship in the context of faith-based studies.”

Click **here** to see all curricula from UCC Resources.

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Mike Stroud

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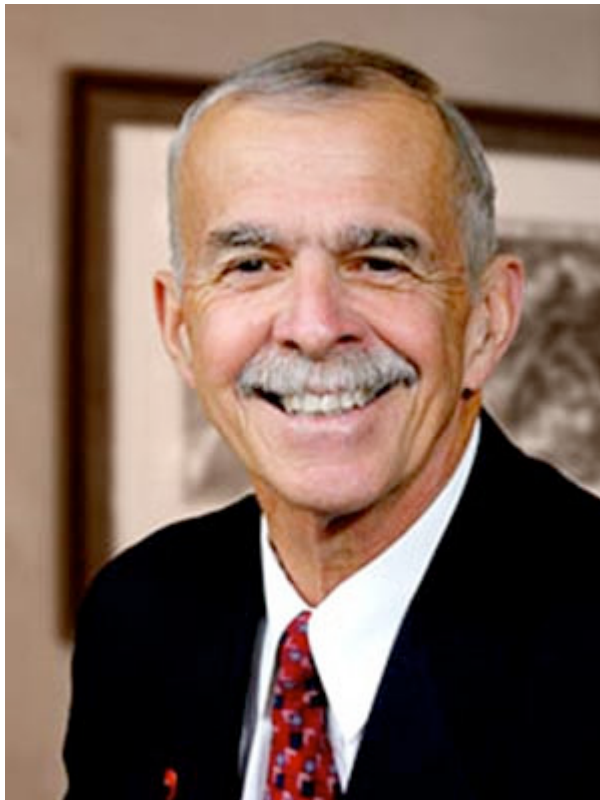
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Rev. Steven Sterner becomes acting president of Pacific School of Religion



After an intense search led by the Board of Trustees of Pacific School of Religion, members voted to elect **The Rev. Stephen L. Sterner** as Acting President of the seminary on Tuesday, July 23.

Sterner has Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Lancaster Theological Seminary. He has been an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ for 43 years, serving in new and historic churches across the US. In 2008, he became Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries of the UCC, where he advocated for local UCC congregations, was a member of a task force that developed a new governance structure for the UCC National Setting, and was a member of the UCC Council for Higher & Theological Education. He is also a former PSR trustee, having served during the presidency of William McKinney.

Steve also served as the Interim Conference Minister of the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC.

While getting his BA at Gettysburg College, Sterner met a college chaplain who suggested Sterner get involved with some student activities, including a trip to tutor students in New York City. Sterner's experience there showed him that church could be engaging, and he decided to go to seminary.

Beyond his experience as a pastor and UCC national executive, he also has experience in developing sustainable endowments, and building partnerships with communities and organizations.

Of what he hopes his role at PSR will be, Sterner said, "I believe leaders today are called not to resist change or simply name it, but rather to help organizations sort out the necessary changes to enhance their vision and mission for the future."

He and his wife Judy have 2 grown children, and Steve will be coming to PSR from residence in South Carolina.

Visit www.psr.edu in the coming weeks to find out more about Rev. Sterner and our next steps towards a bold, new PSR.

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, **Education, National, Seminary, UCC**

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Loving the Stewardship Season: Webinar!

The Southeast Conference United Church of Christ presents
 A STEWARDSHIP WEBINAR
 LOVING THE STEWARDSHIP SEASON
 "HELPING PEOPLE *GIVE* WITH GLAD AND GENEROUS HEARTS"

On August 29th, the Southeast Conference UCC, in collaboration with consultant, Ruben Swint, will offer a one hour webinar designed to help pastors and lay leaders with the coming fall Stewardship season.

This one hour webinar will cover:

- An Overview of Stewardship, why we do what we do
- An Introduction of Generosity, a warm, friendly approach to Giving
- Provide preparation for your upcoming stewardship season
- Introduce "Consecrating Stewards", an effective and practical program
- Explain what to do after the stewardship program is over
- \$39.95 cost per church, unlimited participants per church



- 7:30 to 8:30 pm EST; Thursday, August 29th, 2013
- This is a webinar, but there will be time set aside to ask questions.
- Additionally, for each church participating one hour of free Stewardship coaching with consultant, Ruben can be scheduled.
- Equipment needed: a computer and a phone. A quality headset is preferred if available. We will be using the Go to Meeting webinar format.
- The resource book we will be using is “Inspiring Generosity” from Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Books are \$15 per hard copy or \$7.50 for a downloadable book. [You can order the book by clicking here.](#)

To reserve your church’s participation, please [email Debbie Spearman](#), Conference Generosity Coordinator or call 404-607-1993.

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